# Chapter 8: Psychosocial, Gender, and Cultural Influences on Pharmacotherapy

### Learning Outcomes

* Describe fundamental concepts underlying a holistic approach to patient care and their importance to pharmacotherapy.
* Describe the components of the human integration pyramid model.
* Identify psychosocial and spiritual factors that can affect pharmacotherapeutics.
* Explain how ethnicity can affect pharmacotherapeutic outcomes.
* Identify examples of how cultural values and beliefs can influence pharmacotherapeutic outcomes.
* Explain how community and environmental factors can affect health care outcomes.
* Convey how genetic polymorphisms can influence pharmacotherapy.
* Relate the implications of gender to the actions of certain drugs.

### Key Concepts

8.1🡪 To deliver effective treatment, the nurse must consider the total patient in a holistic context.

8.2🡪 The psychosocial domain must be considered when delivering holistic care. Positive attitudes and high expectations toward therapeutic outcomes in the patient may influence the success of pharmacotherapy.

**8.3**🡪 Culture and ethnicity are two interconnected perspectives that can affect nursing care and pharmacotherapy. Differences in diet, use of alternative therapies, perceptions of wellness, and genetic makeup can influence patient drug response.

**8.4🡪** Community and environmental factors affect health and the public’s access to health care and pharmacotherapy. Inadequate access to health care resources and an inability to read or understand instructions may compromise treatment outcomes.

**8.5🡪** Genetic differences inmetabolic enzymes that occur among different ethnic groups must be considered for effective pharmacotherapy. Small differences in the structure of enzymes can result in profound changes in drug response.

**8.6**🡪 Gender can influence many aspects of health maintenance, promotion, and treatment, as well as medication response.

### Key Terms

* **Cultural competence-** The ability of health care providers to provide care for people with diverse values, beliefs, and behaviors, including the ability to adapt delivery of care to meet the needs of these patients.
* **Culture-** Set of beliefs, values, religious rituals, and customs shared by a group of people.
* **Ethnicity-** Referring to people having a common history and similar genetic heritage.
* **Genetic Polymorphism-** Changes in enzyme structure and function due to mutation of the encoding gene.
* **Hollistic-** Viewing a person as an integrated biologic, physiologic, psychosocial, cultural, communicating whole, existing and functioning within the communal environment.
* **Human Integration Pyramid-** A conceptual framework for dealing with patients in a holistic manner.
* **Pharmacogenetics-** Area of pharmacology that examines the role of genetics in drug response.
* **Psychosocial-** Describes a person’s psychological development in the context of one’s social environment.
* **Spirituality-** The capacity to love, to convey compassion and empathy, to give and forgive, to enjoy life, and to find peace of mind and fulfillment in living.